



## Complete Summary

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### TITLE

Hand washing: does the hospital have appropriate infrastructure for hand washing in all units of the hospital in which patient care is administered?

### SOURCE(S)

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Structure

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to determine whether or not the hospital has appropriate infrastructure for hand washing (washbasins, supplies of soap/alcohol gel hand cleaners) in all units of the hospital in which patient care is administered.

### RATIONALE

Although hand washing has been shown to be highly effective in preventing the transmission of pathogens within a hospital, studies have repeatedly shown that hand washing compliance rates are generally less than 50 percent.

The existence of adequate infrastructure (washbasins provided with soap and antiseptic solution/alcohol gel hand cleaners) indicates that the hospital complies with this fundamental structural quality criterion that facilitates hand washing.

## **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Infrastructure for hand washing (washbasins, supplies of soap/alcohol gel hand cleaners)

## **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

This measure applies to hospitals (one hospital at a time).

## **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

The hospital has appropriate infrastructure for hand washing (washbasins, supplies of soap/alcohol gel hand cleaners) in all units of the hospital in which patient care is administered (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary).

### **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

#### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence
- A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences
- A systematic review of the clinical literature
- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

### **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

#### **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Use of this measure to increase capacity

#### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

### **State of Use of the Measure**

#### **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

#### **CURRENT USE**

Internal quality improvement

### Application of Measure in its Current Use

#### **CARE SETTING**

Hospitals

#### **PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Measure is not provider specific

#### **LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

#### **TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Does not apply to this measure

#### **TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Does not apply to this measure

#### **STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Does not apply to this measure

### Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

#### **INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

48% of hospitals have some room for improvement in relation to infrastructure for hand washing in the units of the hospital in which patient care is administered.

#### **EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

#### **ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

#### **BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

**UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

**COSTS**

Unspecified

**Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories****IOM CARE NEED**

Not within an IOM Care Need

**IOM DOMAIN**

Not within an IOM Domain

**Data Collection for the Measure****CASE FINDING**

Does not apply to this measure

**DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME**

Does not apply to this measure

**DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS****Inclusions**

This measure applies to hospitals (one hospital at a time).

**Exclusions**

None

**RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR**

Does not apply to this measure

**DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT**

Does not apply to this measure

**DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Does not apply to this measure

## **NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

### **Inclusions**

The hospital has appropriate infrastructure\* for hand washing (washbasins, supplies of soap/alcohol gel hand cleaners) in all units of the hospital in which patient care is administered.

\*The following are considered appropriate infrastructure:

- One washbasin with soap and antiseptic solution per intensive care unit (ICU) patient
- One washroom area per operating room
- At least one washbasin per nursing area in conventional wards
- Disposable towels

Availability of alcohol-based hand rub may be assessed also.

Different areas of hospital to be assessed:

- ICU
- A ward at random
- An operating room at random

### **Exclusions**

None

## **MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

## **NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Encounter or point in time

## **DATA SOURCE**

Special or unique data

## **LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Does not apply to this measure

## **PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

None

## Computation of the Measure

### SCORING

Categorical Variable

### INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Passing score defines better quality

### ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Does not apply to this measure

### STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

## Evaluation of Measure Properties

### EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

After pilot testing, the set of indicators has been measured in a random sample of 25 Spanish hospitals, stratified by hospital size. The main objective has been to field test the feasibility of measurement in the various settings representing real life situations in the context of the Spanish Health Care System.

Both the whole indicators validation report and the results of the baseline measurement in a sample of the Spanish National Health Service (NHS) hospitals may be accessed and downloaded from the Spanish Ministry of Health web page (in Spanish):

- [Validation report](#)
- [Results of baseline measurement in Spanish NHS hospitals](#)

### EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p.

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medición en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

## Identifying Information

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Existence of washbasins provided with soap and antiseptic solution/alcohol gel hand cleaners (dispensing units or single-use handrubs) easily accessible to healthcare workers.

### MEASURE COLLECTION

[Safe Practices Indicators Project](#)

### MEASURE SET NAME

[Adopting Safe Practices in Specific Clinical Care Settings or for Specific Processes of Care](#)

### MEASURE SUBSET NAME

[Promotion of Hand Washing in Health Personnel](#)

### SUBMITTER

Spanish Agency for Healthcare Quality of the Spanish Ministry of Health

### DEVELOPER

Grupo de Investigación sobre Gestión de la Calidad en Servicios de Salud, University of Murcia, under contract to the Spanish Ministry of Health

### FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Agency for Quality, Spanish Ministry of Health

### COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

Saturno, Pedro J., MD, DrPH; Group Director and Project PI

Castillo, Carmen; López, M. José; Ramón, Teresa; Nurses

Carrillo, Andrés, MD; Intensive Care Specialist

Iranzo, M. Dolores; Hospital pharmacist

Soria, Victor, MD; Surgeon

Parra, Pedro, MD; Gomis, Rafael, MD; Gascón, Juan J., MD; Quality Management Specialists

## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Project entirely financed by the Spanish Ministry of Health.

## **ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## **RELEASE DATE**

2009 Feb

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

## **SOURCE(S)**

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Existence of Washbasins Provided with Soap and Antiseptic Solution/Alcohol Gel Hand Cleaners (Dispensing Units or Single-use Handrubs) Easily Accessible to Healthcare Workers," is published in "Safe Practices Indicators Project: Background, Summary of Methods and Measurement Strategies."

For more information, contact:

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## **COMPANION DOCUMENTS**

The following are available:

- Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p. This document is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](http://www.msc.es/en/home.htm) (in Spanish).



- Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p. This document is available in PDF from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](#) (in Spanish).

## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on September 11, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on December 23, 2009.

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